(b) During 1991-92 about 39,000 MTs of wheat was exported to Nepal as a gesture of friendly relation. A further quantity of about 6.90 lakh MTs was exported from Government stocks through STC & MMTC who exported to Jordan, DPRK, Singapore, Sudan, Dubai, North Korea, Malaysia; etc.

During 1992-93, 20,000 MTs of wheat was exported to Nepal, Singapore and Malaysia.

(c) Import of wheat had been resorted to for replenishing the stocks in the Central Pool to meet the requirements of PDS. A small quantity of wheat was exported to the neighbouring countries to maintain goodwill. About 7.0 lakh MTs of wheat was exported during 1991-92 to earn foreign exchange. Profit and loss were not a consideration in these transactions of import and export of wheat.

(d) and (e) Due to comfortable stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, there is no proposal with the Government to import wheat.

Minimum price of sugarcane

1109. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Sugar Mills Association had recently expressed their concern over the Government's decision to allow an increase of only Rs. 3.50 per quintal in the statutory minimum price of Sugarcane for the season 1993-94; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Before announcing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane every year, the Government takes into account the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in this regard and also invites the views of the State Governments, growers' Associations and Associations of sugar mills. The views of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, which had been received earliar also were taken into consideration while fixing the SMP for the current 1993-94 season.

Sugar industry in Maharashtra and Gujarat

1110. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to Government's present sugar policy, the sugar industry in Maharashtra is likely to face a loss of Rs. 200 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the sugar factories in Gujarat and Maharashtra are likely to face more problems on this account; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to help the sugar industry and sugarcane growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Purchase of groundnuts for FCI from Saurashtra

1111. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India purchases groundnuts and other commodities from Saurashtra region in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of such purchase centres in the State;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to open more centres of the Food Corporation of India to purchase groundnut and other commodities in the State; and

(d) if so, the decision taken so far by Government in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP